

Museum and Cultural Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met in a regular meeting at the Mesa Arts Center, One East Main Street, third floor, south Studios conference room, on June 9, 2010.

Members Present:

Douglas Brimhall
Keiko Dilbeck
Kit Filbey

Rebecca Nolan
Dr. Robbi D. Venditti
Pamela Williams

Members Absent:

Peter G. Cook
Amanda Buscas
Vincent DiBella
Dr. D. Kent Layton
Lars Neilson, Jr.

Staff Present:

Rob Schultz
Tom Wilson

Sunnee O'Rork
Jean Kaminski

Guests Present:

Merlin Ellis
Ashleigh Knott

Douglas Brimhall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from the May 12 Meeting

Douglas Brimhall, Chair, called for any corrections/deletions/additions to the minutes of May 12. There being none, Rebecca Nolan made a motion, Dr. Robbi Venditti seconded, and the Board members present unanimously approved the minutes of May 12. They will be posted on the City's web page.

Items from Citizens Present:

Merlin Ellis attended the meeting for the third time. He is an architect and is interested in being on the Board.

Sunnee Spencer introduced one of six of their VISTA staff for the summer, Ashleigh Knott. She will be working with the Museum through the summer months. VISTA is a Federal funded summer internship program. She will be working with the administration staff at the Museum.

Introduction of New Board Member Pamela Williams – Douglas Brimhall

Ms. Williams has been the conventions sales person for the Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau for three-and-a-half years. She felt that her position at the Bureau and her position on the Board might complement each other. Ms. Williams grew up in the Pacific Northwest, relocated to Washington, and moved to Arizona in 2002 to be closer to her ailing parents. She and her husband have one son and one grandson. Welcome Pamela!

Discuss and Provide Direction – Agree on a Board Member to Sit on a Public Art Selection Committee (Regional Rail Arts Committee or Station Art Review Panel) – Douglas Brimhall

A document outlining the criteria and time commitment to be on one of the two Public Art Committees for the Mesa Light Rail Extension was sent in the Board packet. The two committees are: Regional Rail Arts Committee (RRAC) and Station Art Review Committee (SARC).

One of the criteria to be on the SARC committee is someone who has a business, has property, or is a resident adjacent within one mile north or south of Main Street from Sycamore to Mesa Drive. None of the Board members present met that requirement; however, there are two Board members who might meet that requirement, but they were not present. Jean Kaminski will e-mail them on Thursday to inquire whether or not they are interested in sitting on the SARC committee, and will let Rob Schultz know and he will forward their name(s).

METRO is looking for four people from Mesa to be on the RRAC committee. Right now Rob Schultz is on the committee. He will recommend that Cindy Ornstein, the new Arts and Culture Director, and Dina Lopez be the second and third members. That leaves one more opening for the committee. They are looking for someone who is on the Board. The time commitment would be approximately one full day for artist selection; an hour for the artist selection approval meeting; a one – three hour meet and greet with the artists; three design review meetings at 30 percent (%), 65%, and 95% (approximately one – three hours each); and three evening meetings (optional), approximately one week following the design review meetings. Douglas Brimhall, Chair, asked if anyone was interested and went around the table. The Board members present were not able to meet the time commitment. Douglas Brimhall, Chair, is interested. Jean Kaminski will e-mail the absent members on Thursday and ask if any of them would be interested and will communicate their response to the Chair and Rob Schultz.

Discuss and Provide Direction – Discuss Moving Meeting Day to Fourth Thursday of Each Month – Douglas Brimhall

Lars Nielson, Jr. requested, at the May meeting, that the Board discuss whether or not they could change the meeting day from Wednesday to Thursday, as he travels the early part of the week most weeks, and he was having difficulty attending the Board meetings on a regular basis. He would be available on Thursday afternoons.

Jean Kaminski took a poll from the Board members who were not able to attend. Lars Nielson, Jr. naturally was in favor. Amanda Buscas was in favor, Vincent DiBella was in favor, and Dr. Kent Layton was out-of-state and unable to weigh in. The Board members present were in favor with the exception of Dr. Robbi Venditti. Dr. Venditti has accepted a new position and requested to have the second Wednesday of each month free to be able to attend the Board meetings. With this change, she will have to check again to make sure she will be available.

The decision was made that, for now, the meetings will be changed to the fourth Thursday of each month from 4 – 5 p.m. at Mesa Arts Center, One East Main Street, third floor, south Studios conference room. The issue may need to be discussed again if Dr. Venditti is not able to get the fourth Thursday, late afternoon, of each month free.

Staff Reports

Arizona Museum for Youth – Sunnee Spencer

- Closing "Sounds Like Art" exhibition on July 4 and installing "Jump to Japan: Discovering Popular Culture through Art."
- Jerry Riopelle, inventor of the Beamz on display, toured AMY with Karen Bever and AMY staff. He and his assistant Becky loved the Museum. They plan to donate the next generation of the device to AMY, which we will place in ArtZone after *Sounds Like Art* over on July 4. They are also considering sponsorship of it in ArtZone.
- "Jump to Japan" opens on July 15 with a reception from 5 – 7 p.m. Invitations will be going out soon.
- On a sad note, the Museum bids farewell to Sandy Johnson who coordinated the volunteer VISTA program. In her short time at the Museum, Sandy brought her HR expertise, cheerful sense of humor, and brilliant attitude to lead the charge in creating a vital volunteer program for the Museum.
- Sunnee Spencer, Administrator, has been accepted into the Mesa Leadership Program for 2010-11. Kit Filbey commented that the Program is fantastic and encouraged the Board members to consider it as well.

Arizona Museum of Natural History – Tom Wilson

- Staff is making good progress with the "Origins" exhibition. The exhibit begins approximately 13 billion years ago and takes you through concepts of deep time and space leading to approximately four-and-a-half billion years ago and the beginnings of Earth. On Earth, the focus is on the development of continents over time. Following that the exhibit begins to look at land forms, for example, in Arizona, at the bottom of the Grand Canyon is the inner gorge of the Canyon, about two billion years old and you can see actual rocks from that era. The exhibit also looks at things like when bacteria first appeared in the fossil records, amphibians, reptiles, and on to dinosaurs. The exhibit is expected to open in approximately one month.
- In one of the two courtyards at the Museum, a digging pit is being installed. Kids can pretend they are an archeologist or paleontologist and dig for replicas of dinosaur bones, etc. "Origins" and the digging pit will be long term exhibits at the Museum.
- Closing the year fairly strong – not as strong as last year in attendance or revenue, but close.
- Staff is working with Engineering and other City Departments in regard to programming for the Federal Building. A plan and cost estimates are expected to be completed within the next month or two.
- Staff is working on grants for the next two phases of developing Mesa Grande – the visitor's center and full interpretation of the trail.
- The Museum is offering Summer Camp in archeology, paleontology, and geology.

Mesa Arts Center/Mesa Contemporary Arts – Rob Schultz

- Summer Arts Camp and summer classes got underway the beginning of last week. Summer Arts Camp saw 40 kids per day last week and this week we are hitting numbers in the 50's.
- Youth and adult classes are up in revenue and attendance over last year.
- Planning committees for upcoming festivals began to meet. Festivals include: Fall Opening, September 10; Day of the Dead, October 30 and 31; and Mesa Arts Festival (formerly the Holiday Art and Music Festival), December 11 and 12. Also finalizing plans for the fall and spring Out-to-Lunch free concert series on Thursdays from 12:30 – 1:30 in the Wells Fargo Garden.
- Volunteers contributed 2,535 hours in May with a value of over \$52,000. There will be an appreciation luncheon for the volunteers who serve as tour guides at MAC. Each Wednesday, there is a free tour of MAC offered to the public. The program is run entirely by volunteers who schedule and conduct the tours.

- MCA will open the "Arizona Designer Craftsmen 50th Anniversary" exhibition this coming Friday, June 11. A reception for members will be from 6 – 7 p.m. and a free public reception from 7 – 10 p.m.
- MAC Store is closed until Labor Day; however, it will be opened during the City's Arizona Celebration of Freedom event on July 2 and 3.

Director's Report – Rob Schultz Reported in Acting Director, Kari Kent's, Absence

The Celebration of Freedom planning committee met today and has been meeting every two weeks. The goal is to energize the Main Street and Center Street areas. Rob Schultz distributed a flyer on the event that has detail on what is happening during the two-day celebration. The web address is also on the flyer for more detail. (www.azcelerationoffreedom.org) Southwest Ambulance is the major sponsor for the event.

MACFest committee will meet on June 14 to begin planning for its third season that will begin in October from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. MACFest is the weekly artist fair on Main Street in downtown Mesa that provides the opportunity for local artists to sell their work at a low cost to them. Artists can purchase a 10 x 10 space on Main Street \$15 per week.

Chili's is offering to donate 10% of the proceeds from sales of food and drink every Thursday in the month of June. The proceeds benefit the "Play Ball" exhibit at Arizona Museum for Youth and the Mesa Historical Museum.

Cindy Ornstein, new Arts and Culture Director/Executive Director of Mesa Arts Center, will be in town in time to attend the Arizona Celebration of Freedom event. Staff has been in communication with her already, and Kari Kent has been having weekly conversations with her for some time. She is already in the process of being orientated and will be ready to begin on July 6.

Report on Conferences and/or Meetings/Performances Attended: Board Members – Information Only

Douglas Brimhall, Chair, traveled to Seattle while his wife was attending training. Luckily, they happened to be there during the Seattle Independent film festival and Mr. Brimhall was able to take in a few of the films. He also visited the Seattle Art Museum and found it to be a nice little art museum with interesting pieces.

Pamela Williams said that she travels a lot, and if anyone knows of places of interest she should check out, she would be happy to do so and report back to the Board.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Kent, Acting Director
Arts and Culture Department

The  **Southwest
Ambulance**

ARIZONA
★ Celebration of ★
FREEDOM
Mesa, Arizona 2010

FREE EVENT

Presented by:  **94.5 KOOL FM**
THE VALLEY'S GREATEST HITS

Friday & Saturday
July 2-3 ★ 6 - 10 p.m.
Downtown Mesa

Friday

- ★ *Motorcycles on Main Event*
- ★ *Symphony of the Southwest*

Saturday

- ★ *Chicago Cubs Salute to America*
- ★ *Fireworks Show*
- ★ *American Iron Car Show*
- ★ *Salt River Brass Band*

Other Events

- ★ *Heritage Lane Featuring ...*
Historic Building Displays, Costumed
American Founders, Patriotic Storytelling
- ★ *Art Displays & Family Fun Zone*
- ★ *Beer Gardens & Food Booths*
- ★ *KOOL Zones & Wet Zones*
- ★ *Fallen Soldier Memorial*
- ★ *Outdoor Musical Entertainment*

www.azcelebrationoffreedom.org

